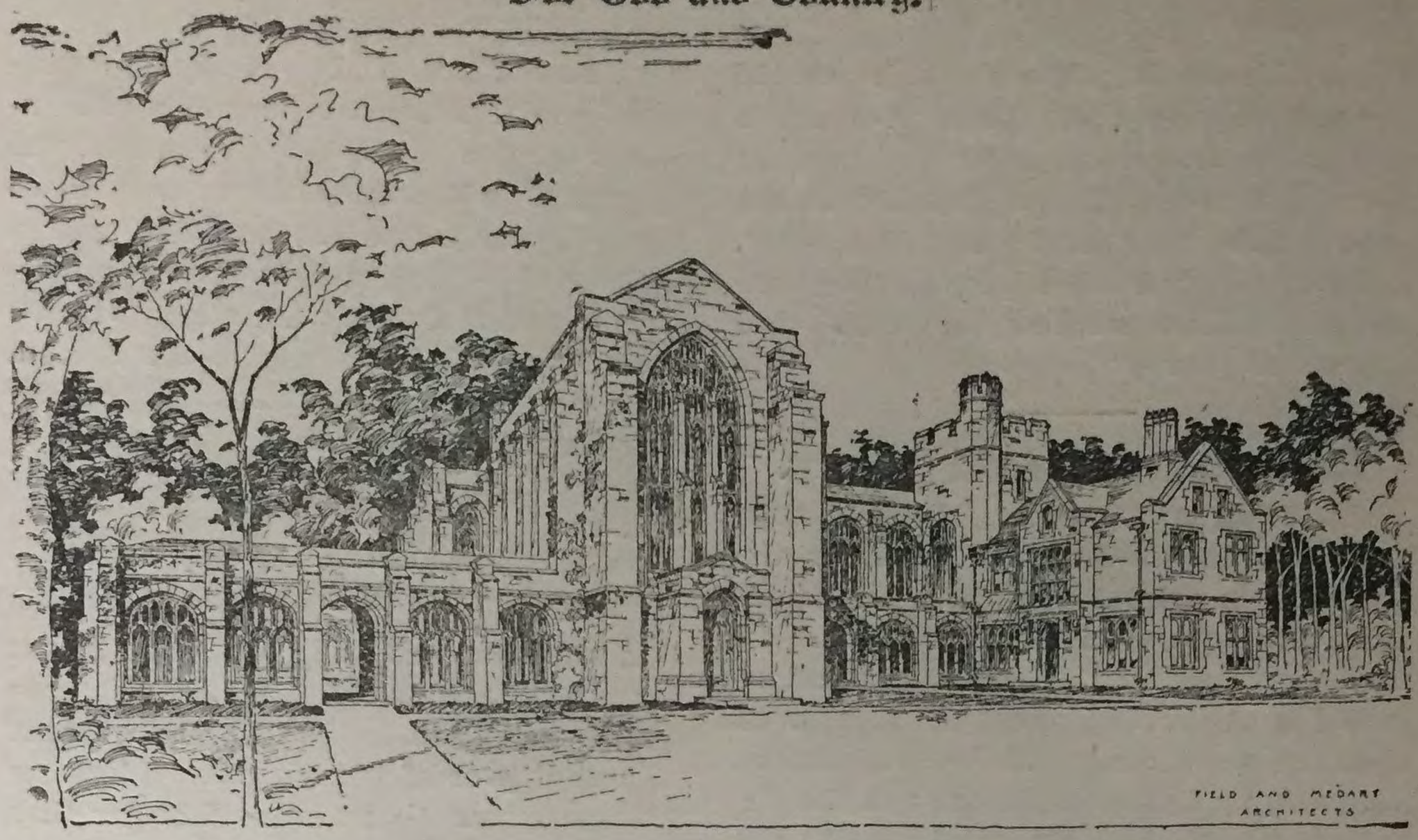
"For God and Country."



Cloister of the Colonies. Washington Memorial Chapel. Patriots' Hall. Tower and Library

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge.

A RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON CHAPEL GUILD.

MISS EMMA W. CRAWFORD, Editor. MRS. ROBERT WOOD, Business Manager

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The Defenders' Gate.

Work on the lodge of the Defenders' Gate has gone on steadily under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Burk, who has charge of the construction of the building. The rafters are on the back building and the walls of the front building will soon be ready for the carpenters to lay the third floor joists. Already the structure is a conspicuous landmark, and is attracting the attention of visitors to Valley Forge. The view from the roof of the tower will be superb, and it is a wise provision to so build it that the tower will be available as an observatory. The plan calls for a circular stairway of iron in the turret.

Now that the lodge is so far advanced a strong effort should be made to have the members of the Grand Army of the Republic complete the Lincoln Arch. The contract has been given for a part of the spans, but there ought to be no half hearted work on this memorial. An appeal has been made to the Grand Army men to have each contribute ten cents. This is an insignificant sum in comparison with the greatness of the purpose and plan of the memorial, and the poorest can

afford this much, while the rich should be glad to give many times this much. The memorial was heartily endorsed by the Grand Army of the Republic at the encampment at Atlantic City last year, and a number of Posts have already contributed toward carrying the plan into operation.

The Washington Memorial Cemetery.

Mr. Thomas W. Sears, the landscape architect, has revised his plans for the cemetery in several ways, and the grades have now been definitely determined. An invitation has been given to contractors to bid on the revised plans, and it is hoped that the work can soon be undertaken once more. Little can be done in the development of the cemetery until the roads are laid out, and the lots marked. There should be no further delay in this matter, for it is by the sale of lots that the cemetery will be made what the plan shows it is capable of becoming. It is hoped that an attractive booklet will soon be published, giving the plans of the Vestry for the development of this valuable tract, with a copy of the plan, showing the location of roads, lots, etc. Applications are being made for this information, and there should be no unnecessary delay in the matter.

Mr. Quigg has a force of men at work mowing, and already there is a marked improvement in the appearance of the grounds. The privet hedge has also been carefully trimmed. Work like this is well worth while.

The Reginald L. Hart Collection.

In these columns we have from time to time recorded the gifts of Mr. Reginald L. Hart, who for years has been an enthusiastic collector. His home is rich with historical treasures, and Mr. Hart has the information that gives added value to the articles he has collected. His collection of military buttons is one of the finest in the country, and represents years of patient search and study. He has presented to the Museum a collection which includes buttons of the British soldiers who took part in the Revolution, and those worn by our troops in that War and in the war of 1812, as well as those worn by the Union and Confederate soldiers in the Civil War. We hope to give our readers some account of this collection in the near future. Meanwhile the collection is being studied with keen interest by our visitors.

The Pew Screens.

So much interest has been taken in the Pews of the Patriots that we feel sure the next addition to the Chapel will meet with the favor of our visitors. Work on the pew screens has advanced so far that now their real beauty can be appreciated. They only lack the flags and shields, and part of these are already carved and colored. Early in September the first should be in place in the Chapel, and a few weeks later the second should be set up.

The State Panels.

Little has been said heretofore about the State Panels which are to form the ceiling. The time has now come when these handsome memorials should have some attention, for they have been designed. They will be formed of deep mouldings and rich carvings and together will make a ceiling of rare beauty, a worthy culmination of the Chapel's adornment. Each panel will bear the State arms, carved and colored. As the height of the ceiling will be too great for the inscriptions to be legible from the floor it is planned to place State brasses in the floor. These will bear the names of the States, the names of the donors, and in cases of memorials a brief statement of the name of the person commemorated. Like all other memorials, the State Panels will be assigned in order of the applications received by the Rev. Mr. Burk Who will give the first State Panel?

We begin with this number the publication of a work by Mr. Reginald L. Hart on the British Regiments which were in Philadelphia during the winter of 1777-1778. No one can fully understand the movements in the War of the Revolution who does not know something of the army with which the Americans contended, and Mr. Hart has by patient research made it possible for our readers to enter upon a better appreciation of the men of Valley Forge by giving a history of the regiments which fought against them.

Record of British Regiments

Which were in Philadelphia During the Winter of 1777-1778, with a Short Account of their Services in America.

By REGINALD L. HART.

THE LIGHT INFANTRY AND GRENADIER COMPANIES.

During the War of Independence a British Regiment was usually composed of two battalions, designated 1st Battalion and 2d Battalion. These battalions were divided into companies. The first, or grenadier company, always held the post of honor, and was on the right, when in line, and in front when in column of attack. In the grenadier company were placed the tallest and finest men in the regiment, and they were distinguished from the others by tall hats. The light infantry company always occupied the left of the line. The men composing it were the smartest, best drilled and most active, and also the best shots in the regiment. The remaining companies were designated battalion companies. The flank companies in each regiment were thus composed of selected men and in time of war, when a number of regiments were assembled, it was the custom to form the flank companies of each regiment into one or more battalions. The system was a bad one, however, as the remaining or battalion companies were thus weakened in strength and effectiveness by the withdrawal of the best two companies in the regiment, and the practice has been discontinued. The flank companies being thus absorbed by the flank battalions it is difficult at times to trace their sources of services, as for the time being they formed a part of a different command.

The county titles were given to the British regiments in 1782.

ORIGIN OF THE RED FEATHERS.

In the fall of 1777 the American troops under Genl. Anthony Wayne were encamped at Paoli, and a tory made the fact known to the British. At midnight of the 20th of September, the camp was attacked by the 42nd and 4th regiments and the 1st Light Infantry Battalion, in which were the light infantry companies of the 46th, 49th, 40th, 52nd and 57th regiments, and the light companies of one other regiment. They were under the command of Major Genl. Gray, who was known to the Americans as the "No Flint General" on account of his fondness for the use of the bayonet. The attack was sudden and unexpected and the Americans were completely surprised. Three hundred of them were killed or wounded, mostly by the bayonet and few prisoners were taken. The remainder escaped under cover of the darkness and swore vengeance against the troops who had so cruelly disregarded the ethics of war, and promised "no quarter" should they ever again encounter the British troops who were engaged in the affair.

From this incident there came about a change in the uniform of the Light Infantry companies of several British regiments. Their feathers were at the time white, but in order that no other troops should suffer on account of the part taken by them, the Light Infantry stained their feathers red, that they might be known to the Americans, and to whom they sent word to this effect, and throughout the war the red feathers continued to be the distinguishing mark of these six

companies. For this act of courage the Light Infantry were authorized to wear red feathers in their caps and the honor was afterwards extended to the whole of the 57th regiment and continued until the entire Light Infantry were ordered to wear green; but the custom is still preserved in the regiment by wearing red cloth under the helmet plate and cap badge.

In the 46th regiment the present ornament on the helmet shows a "Bugle with strings"—which is the Light Infantry emblem—and in the centre "a Turreted Archway," commemorative of the defence of Lucknow—and above it the "Two Red Feathers." The early nickname of the 46th regiment was "The Red Feathers," and later "The Surprisers," both having their origin from the affair at Paoli.

Report of the Valley Forge Park Commission.

Through the courtesy of J. P. Hale Jenkins, Esq., and Mr. A. H. Bowen we have received copies of the Report of the Valley Forge Park Commission for 1910. This is the best report published by the Commission, and is a valuable addition to our Valley Forge literature. In addition to the formal report to the Governor, signed by W. H. Sayen, President, and A. H. Bowen, Secretary, the book of 45 well-printed pages contains excellent half-tone pictures of the interesting sites and monuments in the Park, and several maps. Valley Forge students will be grateful to the Commission for the publication of the Duportail Map, owned by Cornell University, and the contemporary map formerly in the library of the Hon. Samuel W. Pennypacker, LL. D. The report also contains the list of Headquarters prepared by Mr. Wm. John Campbell. The total area of the Park is given as 472.4169 acres. The following are the Commissioners:

W. H. Sayen, President, Philadelphia.

J. P. Nicholson, Vice President, Philadelphia.

Samuel S. Hartranft, Treasurer, Norristown.

J. P. Hale Jenkins, Norristown.

W. G. Brumbaugh, Philadelphia.

W. A. Patton, Radnor.

Richard L. Jones, Reading.

John W. Jordan, Philadelphia.

John T. Windrim, Philadelphia.

A. H. Bowen, Philadelphia.

Andrew Jackson's Stock.

The Valley Forge Museum of American History has been fortunate in securing not only relics of real historic value and importance, but relics intimately associated with the leaders in American life. This personal association adds greatly to their interest and is a stimulus to the imagination of those who visit the Museum. The most recent addition of this character was secured for us by that devoted friend of this great work, Mrs. William Simpson, Jr., of Overbrook, who called the attention of Mrs. William R. Levering, of La Fayette, Indiana, to the Museum as a proper place for the preservation of relics of national importance.

Among Mrs. Levering's treasures was the leather stock worn by President Andrew Jackson. This has been well preserved, and on the linen lining is the well-known autograph of the President. The stock was given by President Jackson to Major John Levering, an officer in Washington's army at Valley Forge. Major Levering gave the stock to his son, William H. Levering, the husband of the donor.

Needs of the Tea Room.

Serving trays.

Paper napkins.

Bread knife.

Ice pick.

During the month of July there were 506 paid admissions to the Museum.

Washington Memorial Chapel,
Valley Forge, Pa.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK, B. D.
RECTOR

Port Kennedy, Telephone 40.

Mr. Frank Quigg, Warden and Treasurer,
Port Kennedy, Pa.
Mr. Charles Wells Walker,
Rector's Warden,
Devon, Pa.
Mr. Leslie Jefferis, Secretary,
Bridgeport, Pa.

VESTRYMEN.

Mr. Edward H. Binns, Mr. Thomas H Dobson, Gen. B. F. Fisher, Mr. Nathan B. Hughes, Mr. Leslie Jefferis, Mr. Frank Quigg, Mr. S. Col. Summerill, Mr. Clayland Stephens Walker, Mr. Charles Wells Walker.

Mr. Leslie Jefferis,
Treasurer of the Building Fund,
Bridgeport, Pa.
Miss Mary M. Hibbs, Chorister.
Miss Mary Supplee Stephens, Organist.
Chapel Telephones—3514 and 18L,
Port Kennedy.

Calendar.

AUGUST.

17. Sunday School picnic.
20. Tenth Sunday after Trinity.
24. S. Bartholomew.
27. Eleventh Sunday after Trinity.

SEPTEMBER.

3. Twelfth Sunday afer Trinity.
6. 2.30 p. m. Washington Chapel Guild.
10. Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity.

Mr. W. W. Pease, the new sexton, entered upon his duties July 19.

Mr. William Boone, of Pottstown, has given to the Museum a very interesting set of coin scales used by James Boone. The box bears the date of 1773, and on the inside of the lid the owner has pasted a printed slip entiled "TABLE of Value and Weight of COINS, as they pass in PENNSYLVANIA." The table contains the following: English Guineas, French Guineas, Moydotes, Johannes's, Half Johannes's, French Pistoles, 4 Spanish Pistole Pieces, 2 Spanish Pistole pieces, 1 Spanish Pistole, Half a Spanish Pistole, Carolines and Spanish Pieces of Eight. The value is given in pounds, shillings and pence, and in another column the weight. The date, 1780, has been written on the slip, and various calculations to facilitate exchange have been added. The whole set—scales, weights and tables—throws much light upon the monetary condition of the country in the closing years of the Revolution.

The Mary Elizabeth Schofield Collection.

The Mary Elizabeth Schofield In Memorian Collection is steadily increasing in value and historic importance. The donor is seizing every opportunity to make the collection a notable one.

The recent additions have been letters of Tench Tilghman and Steuben, a card of Andrew Johnson, a pay roll, and a knife and fork set.

The last-named article is of special interest because it was found here in one of the huts not many years after the Evacuation. It consists of a knife and fork with detachable handles, handsomely inlaid with brass. When the handles were unscrewed the parts fitted into a compact leather case. This case preserved the knife and fork from rust while hidden in the mouldering hut, and accounts for the excellent condition in which the articles are at present. The set evidently was an expensive one, and probably belonged to some officer.

The letter from Baron Steuben is a complaint about his treatment by Congress. It is as follows:

Sir:—

I have the honor to transmit for your perusal and consideration a particular statement of my claims upon the United States, on the ground of a contract made

with them on my first coming to America, together with a copy of an intended Memorial to the Honorable the Congress. Permit me to flatter myself that when you shall have examined . . . . you will be fully sensible of the justice of them, and will honor them with your concurrence and support. I have had a few copies of the Statement Printed, merely for the sake of expedition and cheapness.

I have the honor to be with the truest sentiments of respect, Sir,

Yr. Obt. & humble servt,

Steuben.

Addressed.

The second letter, that of Tench Tilghman, one of Washington's secretaries, was written at Valley Forge, and is as follows:

Headquarters, 23d April, 1778.

Dear Sir:

By the inclosed (which please to return) you will find that Col. Campbell is arrived at Morris Town; Mrs. Higgins has wrote to the General informing him that Sir William Howe acceded to the exchange of Mr. Lourie for her husband, and she now makes a fresh request that he be allowed to come to Philada by land.

Except you have made any final agreement with Loring the Genl. will not consent to it. He desires you to write to your deputy at Boston and him of Higgins exchange, he may go from Boston to Rhode Island by land and from thence to Philada the passage by sea is short.

We will detain the Eastern post till this messenger returns and if you will send a line for your deputy will forward it, I send you two letters recd yesterday after you went away.

Yrs sincerely,

T. Tilghman.

This letter was addressed to Mr. Elias Boudinot.

Hfstory of Valley Forge.

BY HENRY WOODMAN.

LETTER XII—Continued.

[Norristown Herald and Free Press, Aug. 14, 1850.

Upon application being made to Congress, and a true representation of the condition of the troops accompanying it, that body appointed a committee to visit them, who, after the performance of their duty, and making a report, which was done as expeditiously as possible, such relief and assistance was given as the slender means in their power afforded. But the winter, owing to their destitute condition, was of uncommon severity, and many ended their days in the service at this place, especially those stationed on the north side of the rear line hill, who were generally from the Southern colonies, and not accustomed to the climate, and being in a most exposed situation, many of them died in consequence, and their mortal remains were laid there without a stone to mark the spot where their "mouldering ashes sleep," but not "low in the ground," for they were often buried so near the surface as to be disinterred by hungry swine, and in places where the soil has been washed off, the decaying bones have been presented to view, some of which I have seen within the last thirty years.

In the midst of these trying scenes, an attempt was made to remove Washington from the chief command, and place General Gates, then exulting in his triumph in the capture of Burgoyne, in his stead. Whether the latter was concerned in the affair or not, I have not distinctly understood—Generals Lee and Conway, neither of them native Americans, and some other officers, together with members of Congress, were believed to be at the head of the movement. Measures were used to bring Lafayette to unite in their scheme, but these together with the whole project proved an entire failure, and Washington, to the joy of the army at this

place, and the majority of the people of the nation, continued in command. Soon after this his wife came from Mount Vernon to spend the residue of the campaign with him at headquarters.

It may be in place here to relate what I have often heard said of Washington, by many persons of the place, that during all this, and all other gloomy periods of the revolution, his confidence in the final triumph of freedom and the cause of liberty, and the final success of the army under his command, never forsook him. While he felt for the trials of those under his command, and suffered with them, and his benevolent heart bled for their sufferings, and as far as in his power, endeavored to mitigate them. Yet in his duty to his country, who had entrusted so great a task to him to perform, he stood firm and unmoved, comparable to a rock firmly planted on the shore of a tempestuous ocean, against which the wind and the waves and adverse storms, may beat with combined fury, but are unable to remove, or even shake it from its centre. To this, may in a great measure, be attibuted his peculiar faculty of winning and securing the affections of the army at that critical time, and of their calmly listening to his parental advice, when on the brink of a revolt as noticed above. And it was from this source, and the unshaken confidence in the goodness of his cause, that on the occasion they relinquished their intentions, and quietly and cheerfully again resumed the severe hardships and self-denying duties of the camp. In this confidence he stood not alone; there was a host of others, equally sanguine, and who endured, with equal firmness, many severe trials and disappointments, and firmly adhered and remained devoted to the cause they had espoused, during that memorable winter, time would fail to tell of all. I would merely mention the names of Greene, Sullivan, Wayne, Mifflin, DeKalb and Lafayette, omitting a number of others equally patriotic and firm in their adherence to the cause of freedom. There is one, however inconsistent his conduct may appear to many, as a professed minister of the Christian religion, and incompatible with the gospel of truth, yet his patriotism and devotion to the cause, and his firmness in adhering to it, during the gloomy period of the revolution, may claim a few passing remarks. I mean the Rev. David James, chaplain to General Wayne's brigade, and for many years pastor of the Baptist congregation in the Great Valley. He early manifested a deadly hatred and hostility to the measures of the British government, and soon after the commencement of the revolution, published a work in vindication of defensive war. I have understood it was his practice to preach at different stations during the time, and to encourage the officers and soldiers in his discourses, to persevere in contending against their enemies, frequently on these occasions using for his texts the fourteenth and nineteenth verses of the fourth chapter of the book of Nehemiah.

During the encampment at Valley Forge, I have heard it said that Washington used often to retire to the solitary places, and on one of these occasions he was discovered by Isaac Potts engaged in vocal prayer. This circumstance is noticed by Weems, in his Life of Washington, and some comments made upon it by the author, of this circumstance concerning Isaac Potts, of the consistency of the sword and the gospel. How far this account of the convincement is correct I am not prepared to say, as it is the only account I have ever seen or heard of it. But I have heard the circumstance related, and the spot was pointed out to me several years before I saw the account published, and while I am not prepared to adopt the conclusion that Mr. Potts was thus convinced of the consistency of the sword and the gospel, yet through the remainder of his life he was always a warm friend of Washington, and always spoke of him in terms of the highest respect. I was once told by a near relative of his, that previous to the time ailuded to, he

was unsettled in his adherence to the American cause, but his intimate acquaintance with Washington removed his objections, and in his latter days he was a firm republican in principle and practice.

As I shall not have much more to say of the general sufferings of the camp, but shall in my future communications confine myself to other matters of a more special nature that occurred during the time, I will just add before closing, that among those who were stationed here, enduring the sufferings and privations of that day, were many of the wealthy and respectable from all parts of the Union, and from the South there were some individuals who have since filled important offices in the Government, among whom may be mention the Butlers, Claibornes, Blounts, Lewises, Macons, Merriwether, and many others from various parts of the Union, whose names are not recollected. In some of my future communications I shall have further reference to the subject.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The Epaulettes of Prince Gortschakoff.

Anything that bears on the history of the relics in the Valley Forge Museum of American History should find a place in these columns, as they are a permanent record of the growth of this institution. We are therefore glad to print the following memorandum of a conversation in regard to Prince Gortschakoff's epaulets, which form a part of the Read Collection The following account was given Miss Anna L. Ralston by Dr. Louis W. Read, to whom Prince Gortschakoff presented the epaulets. The memorandum is dated August 23, 1897:

"Three young American doctors were anxious to see the Emperor Nicholas when he went to the ——— Church, in Sebastopol, and had gone with the surgeon in a carriage. At the direction of the Governor General they drove to a narrow street through which the Emperor was to make the exit on returning. The carriage contained the Emperor, Prince Gortschakoff, Genl. Kouloff, and the Governor of Sebastopol. As the carriage emerged and passed the narrow street, the Americans stood up in their carriage and gave three rousing American 'Hurrahs,' which were in such contrast to the feeble 'hip, hip' of the unenthusiastic Russians that Prince Gortschakoff inquired, "Who are the men in that carriage?' The Governor replied, 'The young American doctors.' 'What can I do for them?' the Prince asked. The Governor replied, 'Oh, they do not want anything. They are just having a good time.' 'Oh, yes,' he added, 'I do remember hearing one of them reading a letter the other day from a lady in America telling him to bring her one of your gloves.' Whereupon the Prince drew from his hand the fresh glove and handed it to the Governor, saying: 'Present this to him,' and unfastening his epaulets, said, 'Give these to the doctor himself.'"

The Men of Valley Forge.

Under this heading we will publish from time to time brief records of the men who were with Washington at Valley Forge.

The following is taken from the 1910 Year Book of the New Jersey Society Sons of the American Revolution:

Harris, Squire, was born in Connecticut in 1762; he enlisted Aug. 6th, 1776, in Urster County New York troops, and became fifer and Drum-Major in Capt. John Graham's Company; on May 1, 1777, he joined Capt. John Doughty's Company of Col. John Lamb's Continental Artillery and served three years therein; during 1781 and 1782, he was in Col. Wessenfel's Regiment; he was at Valley Forge, and took part in the battles of Trenton and Monmouth. (p. 124)